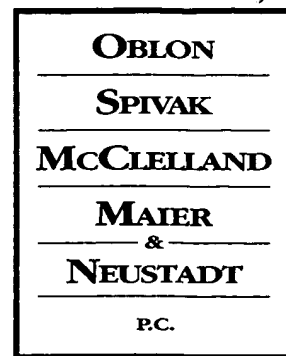




Docket No.: 240987US3

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313



ATTORNEYS AT LAW

GREGORY J. MAIER
(703) 413-3000
GMAIER@OBLON.COM

SURINDER SACHAR
(703) 413-3000
SSACHAR@OBLON.COM

RE: Application Serial No.: 10/629,654

Applicants: Kenji YAMADA, et al.

Filing Date: July 30, 2003

For: SHEET FINISHER AND IMAGE FORMING SYSTEM
USING THE SAME

Group Art Unit: 2854

Examiner: E. H. EICKHOLT

SIR:

Attached hereto for filing are the following papers:

RESPONSE TO REQUIREMENT FOR ELECTION OF SPECIES

Our check in the amount of -0- is attached covering any required fees. In the event any variance exists between the amount enclosed and the Patent Office charges for filing the above-noted documents, including any fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for any necessary Extension of Time to make the filing of the attached documents timely, please charge or credit the difference to our Deposit Account No. 15-0030. Further, if these papers are not considered timely filed, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for the necessary extension of time. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Gregory J. Maier
Registration No. 25,599

Surinder Sachar
Registration No. 34,423

Customer Number

22850

(703) 413-3000 (phone)
(703) 413-2220 (fax)

DOCKET NO: 240987US3



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :
KENJI YAMADA, ET AL. : EXAMINER: EICKHOLT, E. H.
SERIAL NO: 10/629,654 :
FILED: JULY 30, 2003 : GROUP ART UNIT: 2854
FOR: SHEET FINISHER AND IMAGE :
FORMING SYSTEM USING THE SAME :

RESPONSE TO REQUIREMENT FOR ELECTION OF SPECIES

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

In response to the Official Action dated August 18, 2004, Applicants elect **with traverse** the species depicted in Figures 76-79B (i.e. Group F as designated by the Examiner). Applicants submit that Group F corresponds to Claims 1-17, 37-47 and 49-55 of the present application and that Claims 1-17, 32-47 and 49 are generic.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Election of Species Requirement for the following reason. M.P.E.P. § 803 states:


If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden the Applicant must examine it on the merits even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions.

The claims in the present invention would appear to be part of an overlapping search area. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully traverse the outstanding requirements on the grounds that a search and examination of the entire application would not place a serious burden on the Examiner.

Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the requirement to elect a single species be withdrawn, and that a full examination on the merits of Claims 1-86 be conducted.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 25,599

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)

Surinder Sachar
Registration No. 34,423

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